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ABRA

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*Abraham Lincoln*

NEW SALEM  
VILLAGE AND  
STATE PARK

Petersburg, Illinois

# Walk Through a Village of the Past . . .

New Salem State Park proudly preserves one of the most historic villages in the Americas. This 19th Century community is accurately restored and adapted to the lifestyles of the 1830's.

A

young Abraham Lincoln decided to live in the village of New Salem after stopping off there while co-piloting a flatboat down the Sangamon,

Illinois and Mississippi waterways. New Salem was a growing community, boasting a sawmill and gristmill, a tavern, general stores, a post office, stagecoach stop and several craftsmen.

Lincoln considered the potential of the village boundless and decided to settle there. As the town developed, so did his career. Lincoln developed from a self-admitted "aimless piece of driftwood" to a merchant, surveyor, postmaster and captain of the local militia. And finally it was here, where by the flicker of candlelight, he began to study law.

Today, you can touch the history and feel the emotion of yesterday as you walk through the winding paths of the village. Smell the fresh bread baking. Hear the rat-tat-tat of the blacksmith's hammer. Watch the hands of the candlemaker dipping the village light. And wonder to the skill of a woman performing magic with her spinning wheel.



It's all free. A village brought back to life with oxen, farm animals, craftsmen and interpretive guides giving you a historic overview of an era gone by. And a final walk through the famed New Salem Museum will recreate for you the history you and the family will enjoy.

Under the summer skies between July and August, the nationally acclaimed repertory theatre, The Great American People Show, presents nightly live performances in Kelso Hollow. Plays involving the life of Abraham Lincoln are performed Tuesday through Sunday, with a small admission charge for adults, children and groups.

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1 The Great American People Show is a summer stock theatrical troupe featuring live, historically based performances nightly except Monday.

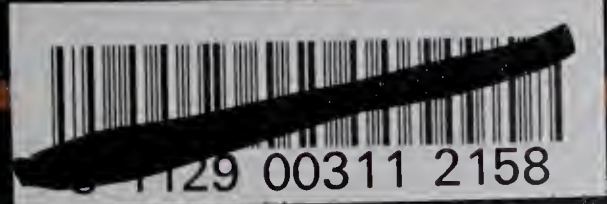
2 The New Salem Saw and Grist Mill together with the Hill Carding Mill represents early efforts at industrializing Illinois.

3 The Miller Blacksmith Shop and the Onstot Cooper Shop represent two of the most important skilled trades in early Illinois. Other craftsmen such as a hatter, cobbler and woodworker also inhabited New Salem.

4 Domestic animals, related wagons and outbuildings contribute to the visitors' feeling of walking back into time to experience the town Abraham Lincoln once knew.



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With camping on the grounds, the outdoor lover can venture out by tent, van or camping trailer. The 178 site campgrounds are open year round. Showers and flush toilets are closed during the winter months.

Picnic among the trees and listen to the birds and animals. Your family will love it. You'll always have that nice fresh feeling in one of the cleanest state parks in the nation.

There are a variety of programs available throughout the year. Enjoy self-guided walking tours, audio tours, school programs, lively historical demonstrations, interpreters in period clothing and regularly scheduled special events just to name a few.

And don't forget a ride on the Talisman Riverboat. When the river is up, you can relive the early days of the first freight and passenger vessel by paddling down the old Sangamon River. The dock is just a very short walk from the village.

On those very special days, if you choose to take part in activities that you'll long



5 *The Talisman Riverboat, a replica of the only steamboat to successfully navigate the Sangamon River, operates seasonal, 45 minute scenic rides.*

6 *Gardens of herbs and vegetables help breathe an air of life into the reconstructed village.*



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remember, visit the Village's many craft festivals, the New Salem Christmas Candlelight Tour and other renowned events. New Salem really comes to life. No matter when you visit New Salem State Park, you'll always find interpretive staff throughout the village willing to take you back into history and help you imagine life as it was in those exciting days of Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President of the United States.



## **New Salem Village Open All Year**

*(except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day)*

Late April - Late October

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Daily

Late October - Late April

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Daily

## **Free Admission**

Visitors are always admitted free of charge into the village as well as the museums and individual cabins. All festivals and special events taking place in the village are also free of charge.

### ***For More Information Contact:***

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### ***Brochure produced by:***

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